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GENERAL NEWS.

Advices have been received from Port Royal, stating that Gen. Hunter has issued a proclamation freeing the slaves in his department, and is organizing a negro brigade, and detailing officers to train them to the use of arms.

The weather is reported to be extremely warm at the South. On the 21st ult., the thermometer at Ship Island, according to a statement in the Boston Journal, stood 105 degrees.

The rumors of intervention by England and France in American affairs interest the public at this time as much as the accounts of impending battles.

Messrs. Harrison, Gatchell and Warfield, Mr. Lyon, the son of Mrs. Norris, Mr. Robert Hull, and Mr. Thomas Hall, formerly the editor of the Exchange, prisoners at Fort Warren, were offered their release on their parole of honor to give no aid or comfort to the enemies of the United States, and all declined.

Edward Stanley, a prominent citizen of North Carolina, who was formerly a member of Congress from the Newbern district, and was previously Speaker of the North Carolina Legislature and Attorney General of that State, has returned from California on the Champion and will soon proceed to occupy the new position assigned to him as Provisional Governor of North Carolina.

Thomas T. Tuntstall, late American consul at Cadiz, Spain, who with one of the officers of the privateer Sumter, was arrested at Tangiers, by order of the consul, and sent to Boston in irons, has been released from Fort Warren, where he has been confined since his arrival in this country.

Joseph F. Harvey, of Westmoreland County, Va., died at Richmond Va., on the 6th of March last. At the time of his death he was State Senator for the counties of Westmoreland, Richmond and Northumberland.

Parson Brownlow is in New York, where he made a speech on Wednesday.

The N. Y. Herald publishes "the copy of an original deed from Thomas Lord Fairfax to Thomazine Ellzey" which it says "was captured by Capt. Walton of the 8th N. Y. State Militia, during the occupation of Fairfax."

The vote in the House of Representatives, laying on the table Mr. Mallory's bill for the more safe, speedy and economical transmission of mails, troops and munitions of war, between New York and Washington, indicates the purpose of Congress not to interfere between the competing lines through Pennsylvania.

There was a collision between a mail and freight train, on the B. & O. R. R., yesterday, above Cumberland, by which two men were killed and two wounded.

The New York market for beef cattle was fairly flooded this week, and notwithstanding the demand was fair. Prices receded fully half a cent per pound, ranging from 6c. to 8c. a 8½c., with a large number of sales of prime stock at 8c.

The N. Y. World says, "public sentiment at New Orleans will probably undergo no essential change while the great battle at Corinth is still pending. Beauregard is a citizen of Louisiana, and a great popular idol. The people have unbounded confidence in his military genius and faith in his star."

Mr. Sherman was inaugurated Mayor of Chicago on the 5th instant. Twenty one years ago Mr. Sherman was elected mayor of Chicago, having received a majority of 256 in a vote of 667. This compared with the vote at the recent election (nearly or quite 14,000) shows the astounding growth of the city.

The Military supervisor of the Telegraph has sent an order to the operator at Cairo, directing that as soon as news is received of the battle expected to take place at or near Corinth, he will send to Washington abstracts of the same, together with the source from which they were derived, and not allow any reports to be transmitted from the office at Cairo until the War Department gives permission.

At New York, on the 15th, an army of women—some four hundred in number (the wives of volunteers)—waited upon the mayor requesting relief. Anticipating their visit, a strong force of Metropolitans had been placed at the entrance to the City Hall, to guard the gates and keep the intruders out. The women, upon their arrival, charged upon the police and drove them from their posts. The latter, however, soon rallied, and after a hard struggle expelled the females from the building.

Mr. Trumbull, of Ill., has offered a resolution in the U. S. Senate asking the President to inform that body, "if consistent with the public interests, of any information he may have of any design on the part of any foreign Power to intervene in the contest now existing, and whether any foreign nation has made any arrangements with the insurgents, or has it in contemplation to do so."

Mr. Morris, Chief Assistant Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives has gone to the headquarters of Gen. McClellan, to present to him in person a handsomely engrossed copy of the complimentary resolutions passed unanimously by the House of Representatives.

Maj. Pangborne, paymaster of the army, and formerly editor of the Boston Atlas, reports that the effort by the strong-minded women, to educate slaves at Port Royal, has produced great mischief, and that there is no way of getting along with them except by a compulsory labor system, under the control of smart business overseers.

A large Union meeting has been held at Nashville, Tenn.

The U. S. House of Representatives was engaged yesterday, mostly, on bills relating to the District of Columbia. The bill to incorporate the Washington and Georgetown street railroad company has passed both houses.

A letter to a person in Brandon, from Belize says that a Vermont private on guard there fell sick one night, and was taken to the hospital, where the soldier gave birth to a child. The soldier and the young recruit are doing well.

A substitute has been offered in the U. S. Senate for the bill recently passed the House of Representatives, in relation to the abolition of slavery in the territories.

Barnum's Dog Show, in New York, is daily attracting large crowds of visitors.

The proposition to pay seventy-five thousand dollars for the buildings now known as the Douglas Hospital, in Washington, meets with serious opposition. The Surgeon General has been consulted as to the economy of the purchase, and states that a building better suited for hospital purposes can be built for one-fourth the amount.

The Wheeling Intelligencer says all the licensed merchants of that city, with one exception, have taken the oath of allegiance. One physician, enjoying a large practice, gave it up rather than take the oath.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company has declared a dividend of 4½ per cent for the half year ending in March, on the Washington branch, and a dividend of 3 per cent. on the main stem—the first payable on and after the 17th, and the latter on and after the 28th inst.

The New York Journal of Commerce, of yesterday, says of financial matters in that city on Wednesday:—"The prevailing tone is one of suspense, and there will be little activity until we hear of something more decisive from the fields of strife."

The Burch divorce case went by default on the part of the defendant. The whole affair has cost Mr. Burch not far from \$60,000.

The travel to Europe is increasing. The steamers of last week went out with every berth engaged.

The chemists have decided that raw petroleum is very combustible, but the refined astral oil not dangerous.

Mr. Charles Henry Foster, who has figured lately so often in North Carolina, has been finally prohibited by Gen. Burnside from making speeches in that State.

Five sisters were accidentally drowned, last week, by the capsizing of a sail boat, at Toronto, Canada.

It would seem to be true that the colored green paper hangings, so generally in use for the walls of houses, have an unfavorable effect upon the inmates from the quantity of arsenic evolved.

Intelligence has been received from Florence of the death of George W. Bethune, D. D., in that city, on the 28th of April.